



## Home Gardener's NEWSLETTER

MAY 2011  
Vol. 29 No. 4

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Visit our website: [www.powaynursery.com](http://www.powaynursery.com)

### **M**ay Success Tips

- 1. Enjoy more flowers in your garden!** Come in and see all the interesting and new varieties we have, and decorate your landscape with them!
- 2. It's prime tomato-planting time!** Also plant some of our delicious peppers, cucumbers, squash, pumpkins, melons, beans, eggplant, and corn.
- 3. Want to go organic?** Check out our line of organic fertilizers and soil amendments. If you have pests, ask us which organic insecticides to use, and control them effectively the first time!
- 4. Control weeds** by pulling them, or use one of our work-saving weed killers. Ask us how.

### **Fruit Tree Care**

It's natural for many fruit trees to drop a lot of tiny fruit in late spring. This process eases the strain on tree limbs, reducing the risk of breakage.

**Additional thinning**, either before or after the natural spring fruit drop, will give you larger, more perfect fruit at harvest time. Also, thinning fruit trees increases the chance of getting a full crop of fruit the following year on varieties that alternate between heavy and light crops every other year. These include apricots, golden delicious apples, and others.

**Watch for shoots** that come from below or near ground level. On grafted fruit trees (and most roses) these are probably originating from the root stock portion of the plant. The sucker, if allowed to grow, will not bear useful fruit, and will sap the strength from the good part of the plant. Trace the sucker to its point of origin and wrench it off by hand, being careful not to tear off extra bark from the main plant. If you simply cut the sucker at ground level, it will react as if it's been pruned and resprout.



### **Plant a Kitchen Garden!**

A kitchen garden is handy for everyday use. It consists of *vegetables* and *herbs*, plus *flowers for cutting*. In colonial times, the kitchen garden would be located by the back door and also include *medicinal plants*, *fruit trees*, and *fruit bearing shrubs*. You can site your kitchen garden anywhere in your yard that gets full sun for most of the day.



Plants for a kitchen garden include herbs such as *basil*, *cilantro*, *oregano*, *parsley*, *rosemary*, and *thyme*. Include all types of vegetables (root, leafy, and vining). Flowers for cutting in a traditional garden include *bachelor buttons*, and *snapdragons*. Also include edible flowers such *nasturtiums*, *chives*, *daylilies*, and *roses!*

Here are some more ideas: The entrance to your kitchen garden may be vining plants on an arbor. Vining vegetables on tepees make interesting focal points. You can grow vegetables in raised beds with herbs planted along the edges. Group vegetables for their decorative qualities as well as ease of care. Plant flowers around the perimeter of the garden.

### **Success with Seedlings**

We have a wonderful selection of quality plants in 6-packs and other small containers. These jump-start your garden, sometimes by more than two months!



Plant seedlings within several days of purchase. In the meantime, keep them moist and in a sheltered spot. When you are ready to plant, follow these tips to help ensure good results:

**Before Planting:** Prepare your soil by mixing in plenty of *Gardner & Bloome Harvest Supreme*.

**While Planting:** Handle the seedlings carefully, disturbing the roots as little as possible and keeping the rootball intact. Whenever possible, turn the container upside-down and gently shake it out into the palm of your hand. Handling the seedling by the rootball is less likely to damage tender stems.

**Planting:** Plant all seedlings at the same soil level as they were in the pot (tomatoes and peppers can be planted deeper). Gently firm the soil around the seedling to eliminate air pockets and help stabilize the root ball. Water your plants, then apply a mulch to help prevent weed problems and keep the soil moist.

**After Planting:** Protect your plants from day and nighttime pests. Water daily at the beginning. Begin fertilizing 2-3 weeks after transplanting. Use *Gardner & Bloome Natural & Organic Tomato, Vegetable & Herb Fertilizer* for vegetables and *Gardner & Bloome Natural & Organic Rose & Flower Food* for flowers.

**Keep us in mind when you need a special gift for upcoming occasions, such as MOTHER'S DAY, MEMORIAL DAY, GRADUATIONS, and FATHER'S DAY. While our FLOWERING PLANTS and TREES make the perfect remembrance gift, people love receiving our GIFT CERTIFICATES too!**

## Fiery Hot Peppers

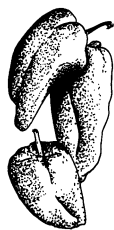
**H**ow hot do you like your peppers? Some claim the endorphin rush experienced from eating a blisteringly hot pepper feels great.

'Capsaicin' is the measurable chemical compound which stimulates nerve endings in the skin and mucous membranes with its spicy heat. In 1912, the 'Scoville Scale' was developed to measure how much capsaicin is present in a pepper, which determines the number of Scoville heat units (SHU).

**Hot chili peppers** (like *Jalapeno*, *Tabasco sauce*, *Cayenne*, and *Habanero*) contain between 2,500-350,000 SHU. But they aren't anywhere near those blistering hot "peel the paint off the wall" types of peppers!

For more than three years, India's *Naga Jolokia* held the Guinness World Record for the world's hottest chili pepper with over 1 million SHU. Then last November, the British grown *Naga Viper* was named the new champ with 1.38 million SHU. Customers must sign a waiver before eating the grower's curry and chili.

Currently vying for the "world's hottest" crown with an unconfirmed level of 1.46 million SHU is the Australian grown *Trinidad Scorpion Butch T*. When making salsa with the Butch T, workers must wear chemical masks and body suits for protection against the cooking fumes.



## Design Tip: Stunning Window Boxes

**W**hy settle for something common (like the example to the below) when you can have stunning window boxes? *Don't limit yourself* to placing these visual feasts under windows—**boxes can be hung from decks and deck railings too!**

Here are a few design tips to keep in mind:

**Symmetry:** arrangements need different heights—tall, medium, with a spill-over. Boxes filled with flowers or greenery all of the same height will look flat and boring.

**Repetition** results in a sense of unity and cohesion—try limiting your arrangement to a few varieties of flowers and greenery. Plant a simple window box by alternating flowering upright plants with trailing plants or vines.

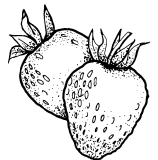
**Color:** If you don't have a color wheel or a gardening book, pick one up at a paint or art supply store, then study the various tints, hues, and complementary colors. Did you know colors can "change" based on what they are paired with? In general, plant bright colors in boxes that get a lot of sun; and intensify paler colors with a shady location. Don't forget to add plants with glossy or variegated leaves!

**Shape:** Heart shaped, grassy, or feathery leaves, cascading vines and tall and spiky flowers are a few of the shapes that will add visual interest to your window box.

## Decadent Strawberry Chocolate Pie

**S**erve this heavenly dessert at an elegant party or for Mother's Day!

- 9-inch pie shell, baked
- 12 oz. package semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 8 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 2 Tbsp. honey
- 4 c. fresh whole strawberries—stems removed and tops sliced off so they set level upside-down.



Melt 8 oz. chocolate chips, cool slightly. Beat cream cheese until softened. Gradually beat in melted chocolate and honey. Spread mixture in pie shell. cover and chill about an hour. Place berries, pointed end up, on top of chilled pie mixture. Melt remaining 4 oz. chocolate chips and drizzle over top. Serve with fresh whipped cream. It is incredibly delicious!

## Children and Gardening (Part 2)

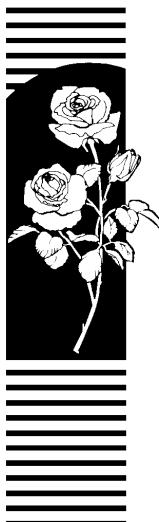
**I**nspire a *lifelong love of gardening* in children by following these 3 simple steps.

**1** First and foremost, let them catch it by observing how much joy and satisfaction you gain from being in the garden every day. Spend as much time together as their attention span will allow between various activities of planting, caretaking, harvesting, and exploring.

**2** Envelop them with great gardens. We don't mean perfect show places—great gardens can be peaceful retreats; a place to play, explore, and discover; and/or places to delight in visual and edible feasts.

**3** Provide positive and age appropriate gardening experiences. "I did it myself" is a powerful and lifelong memory builder!

"One of the best things you ever grow may be a gardener" ~ Cheryl Dorschner, 2009



## America's 'Best Rose Garden' Winners

**L**ast year, rose lovers across the nation cast votes for their favorite local garden. Then 'All-American Rose Selections' (AARS) reviewed the top ten rose gardens with the most individual votes and selected a winner based on "beauty, creativity and the garden's overall contribution to its community."

The winner is in California! Congratulations to the historic *San Jose Municipal Rose Garden* for winning the "America's Best Rose Garden" national competition! In addition to claiming the first prize title, two other California public rose gardens are included in the top 10 best gardens in America: the *State Capitol World Peace Rose Garden* in Sacramento and the *Morcom Rose Garden* in Oakland.

Public rose gardens are a delightful destination filled with inspiration and respite for young and old. Now is a great time to make plans to visit these and other public gardens during 2011 to ensure that you (yes, we have to say it. . .) "*Take time to stop and smell the roses!*"